

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (original) A collapsible container comprising a base, a top ring and a wall peripherally fixed to said base and top ring and extending therebetween, said container being adjustable between an expanded position with the top ring spaced upward from said base and forming a container interior, and a collapsed position with said top ring surrounding said base in outwardly spaced substantially concentric relation thereto, said wall comprising multiple upwardly extending peripherally continuous sections which, in the expanded position of said container, angle alternately outward and inward relative to the container interior, said sections, in the collapsed position of said container, being folded on each other and concentrically received generally between the base and the top ring with the sections encircling the base and in turn being encircled by said top ring.

2. (original) The container of claim 1 wherein the sections include a lowermost section joined to said base, a topmost section joined to said top ring, and intermediate sections between said lowermost and topmost sections, said sections, from said lowermost section to said topmost section each sequentially defining a peripherally encompassed area generally progressively greater than the base.

3. (currently amended) The container of claim 1 [[2]] wherein the sections are joined to adjacent sections at angular joints, the angular joints being obtuse angles in said expanded position of said container, said sections, in said

collapsed position, being generally parallel to each other and concentrically surrounding said base between the base and top ring.

4. (currently amended) The container of claim 1 [[3]] wherein the sections are joined to adjacent sections at angular joints, and wherein each section is of a predetermined height with an upper minor portion of each section having a greater degree of flexibility than the remaining major portion of the section and defining a flexure zone between joined sections below the angular joint of each said section to the section thereabove.

5. (currently amended) The container of claim 3 [[4]] wherein the obtuse angles formed by the joined sections in the expanded position of the container are, upward from the base, oppositely laterally angled inward and outward relative to the container interior and define a series of inwardly directed angles and a series of outwardly directed angles, the angles of each series, sequentially upward from the base are outwardly offset from the next lower angle in that series whereby an upwardly and outwardly extending wall is defined.

6. (currently amended) The container of claim 1 [[5]] wherein each of said wall sections [[below said]] includes an upper portion [[is]] of a predetermined thickness, said upper portion of each section being of a thickness less than the thickness of [[the]] a major portion of the section therebelow.

7. (currently amended) The container of claim 1 [[2]] wherein each section includes an upper portion and a lower portion below the upper portion, said upper portion forming a flexure zone, each lower portion being of a greater rigidity than the associated flexure zone formed by the upper portion.

8. (currently amended) The container of claim 2 [[7]] wherein said lowermost section surrounds and is fixed to said base.

9. (currently amended) The container of claim 2 [[7]] wherein said lowermost section is of a lesser height than said base and said sections thereabove.

10. (original) The container of claim 1 wherein said base has a bottom surface defining a support plane, said folded sections in the collapsed position of the container being positioned above said defined support plane.

11. (original) The container of claim 1 wherein the sections are joined to adjacent sections at angular joints, the angular joints being obtuse angles in said expanded position of said container, said sections, in said collapsed position, being aligned with and generally parallel to each other and concentrically surrounding said base between the base and top ring.

12. (original) The container of claim 1 wherein said sections are joined to adjacent sections at angular joints, each section being of a predetermined height with an upper

portion of each section having a greater degree of flexibility than the remaining portion of the section therebelow and defining a flexure zone between joined sections below the angular joint of each said section to the section thereabove.

13. (original) The container of claim 12 wherein each of said wall sections below said upper portion is of a predetermined thickness, said upper portion of each section being of a thickness less than the thickness of the portion of the section therebelow.

14. (original) The container of claim 1 wherein said base includes a bottom with a central upwardly projecting push bump defining an area adapted to accommodate downward pressure thereon for downward movement of the base relative to the top ring and a corresponding expansion of the container wall.

15. (original) The container of claim 14 wherein said top ring includes a circumferential outwardly extending flange defining means for grasping the top ring as pressure is applied to the push bump.

16. (original) The container of claim 15 wherein said push bump defines a concave downwardly opening recess in said base bottom, and a manually engageable pull bar fixed transversely across said recess for a manual downward pulling of said base relative to said top ring.

17. (original) The container of claim 1 wherein said top ring includes an upwardly extending ring wall, and a separate

seal positionable over said top ring and being releasably fixed to said ring wall in both the expanded and collapsed position of said container.

18. (original) A collapsible container comprising a base, a top ring and a wall peripherally fixed to said base and top ring and extending vertically therebetween, said container being adjustable between an expanded position forming an open interior, and a collapsed position, said wall comprising multiple upwardly extending peripherally continuous sections which, in the expanded position of the container, are edge joined to adjacent sections at angled joints which alternate inward and outward relative to the container interior along the height of the wall from the base to the top ring, each section being of a predetermined height and, for a major portion of this height, being of a predetermined thickness limiting flexibility, each section having a minor upper portion thereof having a greater degree of flexibility and defining a flexure zone within the section itself immediately below the angled joint with an adjacent section thereabove, said minor portion of greater flexibility being of a thickness less than said predetermined thickness of the major portion of the section.

19. (original) The container of claim 18 wherein each minor portion of less thickness is, in the expanded position of the container, generally arcuate and defines an arcuate continuation of the remainder of the associate section.

20. (original) The container of claim 19 wherein each minor

portion is laterally folded on itself in the collapsed position of the container.

21. (new) A collapsible container comprising:

a base at least partially defining a support plane, a top ring, and a wall extending between the base and top ring, wherein the wall has at least a first section and a second section, wherein the first section is adjacent the second section, and a first flexure zone disposed between the first section and second section;

wherein the container is adjustable between an expanded position forming an interior, and a collapsed position; wherein in the expanded position, the first section angles outward relative to the interior, and the second section angles inward relative to the interior; wherein in the collapsed position, the first and second sections are folded to form a first angled opening disposed between the base and the top ring; and wherein the first angled opening has a centerline substantially perpendicular to the support plane.

22. (new) The container of claim 21, further comprising a third section, and a second flexure zone disposed between the second section and the third section.

23. (new) The container of claim 22, wherein in the collapsed position, the second and third section are folded to form a second angled opening.

24. (new) The container of claim 23, wherein the second angled opening has a centerline substantially perpendicular to the support plane.

25. (new) The container of claim 23, wherein the first angled opening opens in a different direction than the second angled opening.

26. (new) The container of claim 23, wherein the first angled opening forms a first angle, and wherein the second angled opening forms a second angle, and wherein the first and second angles are substantially acute.

27. (new) The container of claim 23, wherein the first angled opening forms a first angle, and wherein the second angled opening forms a second angle, and wherein the first and second angles are substantially equal.

28. (new) The container of claim 22 wherein in the expanded position, the third section angles outward relative to the interior.

29. (new) The container of claim 22 wherein the first, second, and third sections are arranged in series.

30. (new) The container of claim 21 wherein the first and second sections are concentrically folded.

31. (new) The container of claim 21 wherein the base is non-permeable.

32. (new) The container of claim 21 further comprising an upwardly extending ring wall, extending from the top ring, and configured to releasably attach to a seal.

33. (new) The container of claim 32 including a seal having an annular groove for receiving at least a portion of the upwardly extending ring wall.

34. (new) The container of claim 21 wherein in the collapsed condition, the first flexure zone is substantially arcuate.

35. (new) The container of claim 21 wherein at least a portion of the wall overlays at least a portion of the base.

36. (new) The container of claim 21 wherein said container is stable in each of said positions and wherein positive action is required to adjust the position of the container.

37. (new) The container of claim 21 wherein the container is comprised of a synthetic polymer.

38. (new) The container of claim 21 wherein the wall is molded in the collapsed position.

39. (new) The container of claim 21 wherein the first flexure zone and the first section each have a thickness, and wherein the thickness of the first flexure zone is less than the maximum thickness of the first section.



40. (new) The container of claim 21 wherein the top ring and the wall are separate components molded to each other.

41. (new) The container of claim 21 wherein the wall and the base are separate components molded to each other.

42. (new) A collapsible container comprising:

a base, a top ring having an upwardly extending ring wall and a flange extending therefrom, a seal releasably attachable to the upwardly extending ring wall, and a container wall extending between the top ring and the base, wherein the container wall has at least a first section and a second section, wherein the first section is adjacent the second section, and a first flexure zone disposed between the first section and second section;

wherein the container is adjustable between an expanded position forming an interior, and a collapsed position; wherein in the expanded position, the first section angles outward relative to the interior, and the second section angles inward relative to the interior; and wherein in the collapsed position, the first and second sections are folded and concentrically disposed between the base and the top ring.

43. (new) The container of claim 42 wherein the seal has an annular groove for receiving at least a portion of the upwardly extending ring wall.

44. (new) The container of claim 42 wherein the first flexure zone and the first section each have a thickness, and

wherein the thickness of the first flexure zone is less than the maximum thickness of the first section.

45. (new) The container of claim 42 wherein in the collapsed position, the first flexure zone is substantially arcuate.

46. (new) The container of claim 42 wherein the base is non-permeable.

47. (new) The container of claim 42 wherein the base and the container wall each have a thickness, and wherein the thickness of the base is greater than the thickness of the container wall.

48. (new) The container of claim 42 wherein in the collapsed condition, the folded portion of the container wall and the base are each at an elevation, wherein the lowest elevation of the base is lower than the lowest elevation of the folded portion of the container wall.

49. (new) The container of claim 42 wherein the container is configured to retain liquid.

50. (new) The container of claim 42 wherein the seal is substantially in a first plane and the base at least partially defines a support plane, and wherein the first plane is substantially parallel to the support plane.

51. (new) The container of claim 42 wherein in the collapsed position, the first section and the second section form a

first angled opening, wherein the base at least partially defines a support plane, and wherein the first angled opening has a centerline substantially perpendicular to the support plane.

52. (new) The container of claim 42 wherein the container wall further comprises a third section adjacent the second section, and a second flexure zone disposed between the second and third section.

53. (new) The container of claim 42 wherein the container wall is molded in the collapsed position.

54. (new) The container of claim 42 wherein the container is substantially watertight.

55. (new) A collapsible container comprising:

a base, a top ring, and a wall extending between the top ring and the base, wherein the wall has at least a first section and a second section, wherein the first section is adjacent the second section, and a first flexure zone disposed between the first section and second section;

wherein the container is adjustable between an expanded position forming an interior, and a collapsed position; wherein in the expanded position, the first section angles outward relative to the interior, and the second section angles inward relative to the interior; wherein in the collapsed position, the first and second sections are folded and concentrically disposed between the base and the top ring; and

wherein the base is closed such that the container is configured to retain a liquid.

56. (new) The container of claim 55 wherein the base has a centrally-located raised portion.

57. (new) The container of claim 55 wherein the wall and the base are separate components molded to each other.

58. (new) The container of claim 55 wherein at least a portion of the wall overlays at least a portion of the base.

59. (new) A collapsible container comprising:

a base, a top ring, and a wall extending between the top ring and the base, wherein the wall has at least a first section and a second section, wherein the first section is adjacent the second section, and a first flexure zone disposed between the first section and second section;

wherein the container is adjustable between at least an expanded position forming an interior and having a first volume, a partially expanded position having a second volume less than the first volume, and a collapsed position;

wherein in the expanded position, the first section angles outward relative to the interior, and the second section angles inward relative to the interior; and wherein said container is stable in each of said positions and wherein positive force is required to adjust the container from the partially expanded position to the expanded position, and to adjust the container

from the partially expanded position to the collapsed position.

60. (new) The container of claim 59 wherein in the expanded condition, the first and second sections form an obtuse angle.

61. (new) The container of claim 60 wherein the first section is configured to fold over the second section when the angle between the first and second section is less than about 90 degrees.

62. (new) The container of claim 59 wherein in the collapsed condition, the first and second sections form an acute angle.

63. (new) The container of claim 62 wherein the first section is configured to unfold from the second section when the angle between the first and second section is greater than about 90 degrees.

64. (new) The container of claim 59 further comprising a third section adjacent the second section, a second flexure zone disposed between the second and third sections, and wherein the first section can be folded independent of the third section.

65. (new) The container of claim 64 further comprising a fourth section adjacent the third section, a third flexure zone disposed between the third and fourth sections, and wherein the third section is configured to fold over the fourth section.

66. (new) The container of claim 65 wherein in the partially expanded condition, the first section is folded over the second section, and the third and fourth sections form an obtuse angle.

67. (new) The container of claim 65 wherein in the partially expanded condition, the first and second sections form an obtuse angle, and the third section is folded over the fourth section.

68. (new) The container of claim 65 wherein at least a portion of the fourth section overlays at least a portion of the base.